

(copy 689)  
46

# An Address of Thanks,

On Behalf of

## The Church of England,

TO

# Mrs. J A M E S,

## For Her Worthy Vindication of That CHURCH.

---

Published with Allowance.

---

M A D A M !

**T**HO the Sons of Our Church seem of late somewhat out of Humour as to the Business of **Addressing**, yet the Obligations You have laid upon Us, cannot but vanquish the most Obstinate. 'Tis true, scarce any of Us could find in our Hearts to *Thank the King* at all, for the Greatest and most *Gracious Favour* that ever Prince did or could Vouchsafe to *Subjects*; And those Few that pretend to do it, have proceeded so *Awkwardly* in their Acknowledgments, as renders them of very little Value: For to Thank His Majesty not Absolutely for the *Main Scope* of His **Healing Declaration**, but only for one *Single Expression* therein, relating to our own immediate Interest and Temporal Advantages; and at the same time to press the continuance of those **Penal Laws**, which diametrically oppose both the *Royal Indulgence*, and that Generous, Universal, and most **Christian Principle** upon which it is grounded, is apt to be construed not only a gross *Defect of Charity* (as if we regarded no bodies Ease and Happiness but our *Own*, and minded our *Possessions* above all other Considerations) but also discovers a deep-rooted Aversion to the *Toleration* it self, a tacite Reflection on His Majesties *Proceedings*, and a violent Inclination to be *Pushing and Goring, Rending and Tearing*, as fiercely as formerly, if ever we can get the opportunity: And what is all this (will our Enemies say) but to Upbraid and Affront the King, whilst we seem to Complement Him?

But whatever Cause His Majesty may have to Resent this Shuffling Conduct, You, Madam, shall not fail of our Sincere Respects, for so Brave an Effort on the Behalf of our *Distressed Mother*. It must be confessed she was under very deplorable Circumstances: For tho her *Doctrines* stood firm as a *Rock* (for *thereon* They are grounded) and She enjoyed not only *Publique Liberty and Protection*, but all the Ecclesiastical Revenues to boot, yet, alas! She was disarm'd of her Thunderbolts; Her dear *Excommunicato Capiendo's*, her sweet *Twenty Pound per Month Penalties*, her pretious *Thirty-Fifth of Elizabeth*, and the like Weapons of her *Spiritual Warfare*, were all wrested out of her Hands, or render'd Useless: *Toleration* Discuss'd to her vast disadvantage; The *Mischief of Seperation* prov'd to proceed from the *Mischief of Impositions*: And not a *Man of Sense* that would appear on her behalf for the Restitution of this *Blessed Artillery*. For those Mighty Champions and well-paid *Pensioners*, who swagger'd so high for her in days of Yore, had *no more Ink* at her Service; when once the *Golden Current* was *dry'd up*; but remain Retir'd and Silent, as *Owls at Noon*; and like Treacherous *Advocates*, having Exhausted their Clients Purse in a tedious *Unnecessary Brangle*, desert her, when reduc'd (by their own Ill-management) to Sue in *Forma Pauperis*.

In this Extremitie, you, Madam! are the *Pucelle de Lieu*, that *Joan of Arque*, who stept in to Retrieve our Forlorn Affairs, and bouy up our Sinking Reputation; You are



are the brave *Semiramis* that must Rebuild the Walls of our *Babel*; You have satisfied all the World by undeniable Demonstrations, That our Church has its *Enthusiasts* too, as well as the *Rankest* Phanaticks: And tho you could not (as you Gravely tell us) obtain to be the *City's*; you shall have our Vote to be the **Churches God-Mother**; and to **fast** too (if you please, since you have got so rare a *Knack* at it) for all our *Reverend Clergy*; because that *Meager Exercise* may not, perhaps, agree very kindly with many of their Constitutions.

We cannot but with equal *Joy and Gratitude*, observe how wonderfully you have Edified the *Tripe-Women*, and Convinc'd the *Porters*, That our Church is the only Church for *Loyalty*; and that you your self (how light soever) can *Weigh down all the rest*, in that excellent Qualification. The truth is, whilst the Government takes our Measures, and advances our Interest, we can be very Loyal; huge good *Subjects*, and Admirers of *Prerogative*, as long as we are pleas'd; But if our Purposes be cross'd, and Affairs happen to go against the grain of our Humour, we can be as *Peevish* as our Neighbours, drop the Doctrine of *Passive Obedience*, and leave *Non Resistance* to shift for it self; prove as apt as any to murmur and look *bowdy*; as full of Fears and Jealousies (the Swadling-Clouts of Sedition) as the Tribe of *Forty One* it self; As loud in Clamours at the Ministers of State, as busie in Squinting Reflections to mis-represent our Superiors Actions and Intentions, as ready to lick up the Abominated Distinction between the **Natural** and **Politick** Capacity, and to set the **Law** and the **Prerogative** at Daggers-drawing against each other.

But all this notwithstanding, we have your Word for't, That our Church of *England* (that is, as you Wittily define it, p. 7. Those that are for *Common-Prayer* and *Bishops*) desires **Nothing Else** but to serve God Truly, and the King Rightly; and we Rejoyce we have such an Authentick Evidence in the case; for else the People would suspect, it was rather, To hold our *Benefices*, Domineer over our Neighbours, and Ruin all that will not Truckle to our Inventions. You have asserted (which amongst Friends passes as well as if you had prov'd it) That all the World (you might decently have Excepted some few, that may happen to be of your Sovereign's contrary Opinion) knows, That they that are for *Liberty of Conscience*, **Never had any Loyalty**. A bold Stroke! which besides a very coarse Complement on his Majesty, Brands the Bulk of the Nation for *Rebels and Traitors*.

For all these your Great and *Heroick* Atchievements, you may justly expect our Grateful Acknowledgments, and especially for your most Orthodox Hopes, That the King will not satisfy His Own (and the far greater part of His Subjects) Desires, by removing the **Test** and the **Penal Laws**, but let them stand as Rods do upon Mantle-trees, to keep *Rebellious Children* in Subjection. A brave Expedient to continue our Expectations, and feed our Hopes of getting Power once again, to worry our Honest Peaceable Fellow-Subjects! Of whom, even of *Protestant Dissenters*, by a Modest Calculation, we have (thanks to those Excellent Statutes of our own Procurement) occasioned the untimely Death of above *Three-thousand Persons*, by their Imprisonment in Noisome Jails, and Ruin'd more than *Threescore-thousand Families*, within 25 years by past; And all this on the Score of *Conscience* and *Non-Conformity* to Ceremonies, which we our selves own'd to be *Indifferent*.

Yet still we are not without good hopes that your Notable Paper, in Conjunction with our strenuous Endeavours (which are much of the same size, both for Logick and Politicks) may cajole the Easie *Nonconformists* to abandon their Interest and **Only Preservative**, at this Critical Juncture; And suffer their Actions to give the Lye to all their Addressee, by *HERDING* with our Party, to Continue those very *Plagues*, which they have so severely Smarted under, and loudly Complained of. In Requital whereof, we are resolv'd on the first Opportunity to Scourge them more **Canonically** then ever, That they may learn by Experience the Truth of that Proverb, *The Rod is Reserved for the Back of Fools*.

In the mean time, for these, and the rest of your alike Wise and Pious Suggestions, we cannot but return you our most *Humble and Hearty Thanks*, as becomes the *Modern True Sons of the Church of England*; And, Madam!

*Your most Obliged and Devoted Servants.*